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DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact that these lepers had been taking undue advantage of their illness and behaving in an unruly fashion so that this doctor was incapacitated from discharging his duties properly?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : To the best of my information, the unruly behaviour was witnessed only on the day this incident happened. What happened before that is not before us.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact that the doctor wrote to his superior authorities informing them of the unruly behaviour of the inmates of the Leprosorium, fearing his life?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I have no information about that. But as regards the incident on that day, the doctor cut off all rations and no food was given to the inmates from the morning till about 2 or 3 p.m. Probably the inmates got enraged.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Therefore, is that an extenuating circumstance for a person to commit murder?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Whoever said it was an extenuating circumstance? If the hon. Member draws all sorts of inferences, I am not responsible for it.

Plague

* 64 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was any outbreak of plague in Hosur taluk, Salem district, in the first fortnight of November 1960;

(*b*) if so, the number attacked and the number that proved fatal; and

(*c*) the preventive measures taken by the Government to control the same?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Yes, Sir. There was an outbreak of plague in Hosur taluk on 9th October 1960.

(*b*) Sixteen attacks and eight deaths were reported.

(*c*) All the people in the infected as well as in the surrounding villages have been inoculated against plague. All the structures in the infected and surrounding areas were treated with D.D.T.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I know whether the whole taluk was declared an infected area for about four weeks and that as such no foodstuffs were allowed to move to the non-infected areas?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : When we were concerned with the lives of the people, we should not worry about the movement of things. We have to take steps to see that the disease does not spread. We have arranged for periodical meetings of inter-district and inter-State officers so that they may take proper action for the prevention of this sort of epidemic.

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SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : What other parts of the Salem district were affected by this plague?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Only one taluk was affected and that was Hosur. In fact, my hon. Colleague was there at that time and people warned him not to go there in view of the epidemic. Still he braved the situation and went into the plague-affected area also.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : In what state is the epidemic now? Is the area free from it?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I think so.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Why did not the people of that area rise in revolt as the inmates of the Leprosorium did?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

Construction of houses

* 65 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJALU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to construct houses for dhobis, fishermen and barbers during 1960–61; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : (*a*) There is no proposal to construct houses for dhobis and barbers during 1960–61. As regards fishermen 61 houses will be constructed during the year under the State Fishermen Housing Scheme.

(*b*) Each house for fishermen will cost Rs. 850 according to an approved type design, of which Rs. 550 will form the Government subsidy and the balance of Rs. 300 will be contributed by the beneficiaries by way of labour and materials or by cash. Interest-free loans, repayable in five years will be advanced to such fishermen who are unable to meet their portion of contribution by cash, labour or materials. The construction of houses is done through the agency of the Fishermen Co-operatives serving the area.

SRI M. ETHIRAJALU : சேரி சீரமைப்புத் திட்டத்தின்கீழ், சென்ற ஆண்டு மத்திய சர்க்காரிடத்திலிருந்து சலவைத் தொழிலாளருக்கும் வீடு கட்டிக் கொடுக்கலாமென்று எதாவது நமது இராச்சிய சர்க்காருக்குத் தகவல் வந்திருக்கிறதா? அப்படியானால், அதன்படி எத்தனை வீடுகள் கட்டிக்கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன? கட்டிக்கொடுக்கப்படவில்லையானால், வேறு எதாவது நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : அந்தமாதிரித் தகவல் வரவில்லை. கனம் அங்கத்தினர் அவர்கள் தனியாகக் கேள்வி போட்டால் பதில் சொல்லலாம்.